

REQUIREMENTS FOR  
**MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION, K - 12 CERTIFICATE**  
**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

*THE MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE WILL REPLACE THE CROSS-CATEGORICAL CERTIFICATE ON JANUARY 1, 2016. THE MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE QUALIFIES THE HOLDER TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE AUTISM, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, EMOTIONAL DISABILITY, SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY, ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS, AND/OR OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS.*

➤ **PROVISIONAL MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE  
(EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016)**

*The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.*

Requirements **effective January 1, 2016** for the Provisional Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. One of the Following (Option A, B, or C):
  - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in special education from an accredited institution, which included courses in the instruction and behavior management of students with mild-moderate disabilities.
  - B. Forty-five semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution which teach the standards described in R7-2-602 including 37 semester hours of special education courses which shall include:
    - 1. Foundations of special education; 2. Legal aspects; 3. Effective collaboration and communication practices; 4. Research-based instruction in math; 5. Research-based instruction in English language arts; 6. Classroom management and behavior analysis; 7. Assessment and eligibility; 8. Language development and disorders; 9. Electives; **AND**
    - **One** of the following:
      - A minimum of eight semester hours of practicum with students with mild-moderate disabilities; **-OR-**
      - Two years of verified full-time teaching experience in mild-moderate special education, grades K-12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
  - C. A valid mild-moderate special education certificate from another state.
6. Professional Knowledge Elementary Exam.

**One of the following:**

  - A. A passing score on the *NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge: Elementary* **OR** a passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge Elementary (replaced by the NES Assessment).
  - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
  - C. Three (3) years of full-time teaching experience in mild-moderate special education, K-12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director, to verify teaching experience.
7. Subject Knowledge Special Education Exam.

**One of the following:**

  - A. A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge Special Education (NT 601) exam ([NES/AEPA](#) website).
  - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
  - C. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education.

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8. Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement \*

The SEI endorsement requires **ONE** of the following (option A, B, or C):

- A. Official transcript documenting a three (3) semester hours State Board approved SEI course or comparable SEI training from another state.  
**-OR-**
- B. Certificate of training documenting completion of forty-five (45) clock hours of State Board approved SEI training or comparable SEI training from another state.  
**-OR-**
- C. Teachers and administrators who hold a **Full** English as a Second Language (ESL) or **Full** Bilingual Education endorsement are exempt from the SEI requirement. Note: The Provisional ESL and Provisional Bilingual endorsements will **NOT** meet the SEI endorsement requirement.

\* **Note:** The requirements for a SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other certification requirements.

<b>Requirements # 9 and # 10 are required within one year or three years. **</b>
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9. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

10. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

**\*\*NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).

➤ **STANDARD MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE**

*The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and is renewable.*

Requirements for the Standard Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education certificate are:

- 1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education certificate for 2 years.
- 2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate. Submit an [Application to Convert a Provisional Teaching Certificate](#), signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director, verifying two years of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
- 3. Verification of 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.  
**NOTE:** Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.
- 4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic).  
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